

status of historical studies within cartography tends to be less technical, but more descriptive with the statement, "... even today, in cartography as well as in geography, a frequent reaction to the study of the history of the maps is that it is a pursuit for the non-quantitative, the non-scientific or the superannuated - in short, for those who have ceased to make a contribution to the more substantive issues of their contemporary subject." [Harley and Woodward, 1989 p.6] This thesis disagrees. In reviewing the literature, the author finds some studies in historical cartography and historical geography do include a more scientific approach in the analysis of historical mapping. The authors of research studies in cartography that have used less of a subjective technique include Tobler (1966), Petchnik (1976), Chardon (1982), Loomer (1986), and Yerci (1989), among others. This is a recent shift in historical studies since the advent of computer science and computer assisted mapping. The historical study of early maps is not a newly developed discipline within cartography. Moreover, both the history of cartography and comparative cartography are interdisciplinary studies performed by historians and geographers, as well as map collectors and map dealers. One of the forerunners in the comparative study of early cartography may be traced to the early 15th century. "Andrea Bianco had added to his atlas of portolan charts,